

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending with entry of this Amendment.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of Claims 1-25.

Claims 26-30 stand rejected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner improperly rejected Claims 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. While Applicant disagrees with the merits of the rejection, Applicant has amended independent Claims 26 and 27 for clarification purposes. Thus, independent Claims 26 and 27, as amended, are method claims are written to contain positively recited steps. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of Claims 26 and 27 are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 28-30 are ultimately dependent upon independent Claim 27. Claim 27 is in condition for allowance. Thus, the claims depending from independent Claim 27 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence, without need to resort to the additional patentable limitations contained therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are hereby solicited.

Conclusion

This Amendment has been submitted responsive to the Office Action mailed November 8, 2007. Claims 1-30 remain pending in the subject application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephonic or in-person interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Should any additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this Response, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of the same, such a petition is made and the Office is authorized to charge such fees to **Deposit Account No. 08-0870**.

Respectfully submitted,

Electronically signed and submitted by

Mark C. Comtois Reg. No. 46,285

Duane Morris, LLP
1667 K Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 776-7800
Telecopier: (202) 776-7801

Date: December 7, 2007